

Application No. 09/916,377

3COM 3655-1

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed 23 February 2005, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-33. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 8-12, 16, 19-23, 27 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a); has rejected claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a); and has objected to claims 204, 13-15 and 24-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant has canceled claims 1, 12 and 23, and has amended claims 2-11, 13-22 and 24-33. Claims 2-11, 13-22 and 24-33 remain pending.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed below.

Rejection of claims 1, 5, 8-12, 16, 19-23, 27 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 8-12, 16, 19-23, 27 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson *et al.* U.S. Pat. No. 6,026,090, in view of Yamanaka *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,953,341. Applicant has canceled the independent claims 1, 12 and 23.

Dependent claims 5 and 8-11 have been amended to depend from claim 2 as amended, and therefore are allowable for the reasons discussed below. Dependent claims 16 and 19-22 have been amended to depend from claim 13 as amended, and therefore are allowable for the reasons discussed below. Dependent claims 27 and 30-33 have been amended to depend from claim 24 as amended, and therefore are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Therefore, in view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 5, 8-11, 16, 19-22, 27 and 30-33.

Rejection of claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,026,090 in view of Yamanaka *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,953,341, and further in view of Aguilar *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,199,137.

Claims 6 and 7 are amended to depend from claim 2 as amended. Likewise, claims 17 and 18 are amended to depend from claim 13 as amended. Claims 28 and 29 are amended to depend from claim 24 as amended. Therefore, such claims are believed allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 28 and 29 is respectfully requested, in view of the amendments.

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Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-4, 13-15 and 24-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 13 and 24, to incorporate subject matter from their base claims, 1, 12 and 23, respectively. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended so that they depend from claim 2. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended so that they depend from claim 13, and claims 25 and 26 have been amended so that they depend from claim 24.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to claims 2-4, 13-15 and 24-26 as amended is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee determined to be due in connection with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (3COM 3655-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark A. Haynes, Reg. No. 30,846

HAYNES BEFFEL & WOLFELD LLP
P.O. Box 366
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 712-0340 phone
(650) 712-0263 fax